



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
HC33 Box 33500 (702 N. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer to:

NOPA-NVL0000-14-03

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION **LANDS IN WILDERNESS**

STATE: Nevada

COUNTIES: Lincoln and White Pine

FIELD OFFICE(S): Caliente, Egan and Schell

WILDERNESS AREAS: Becky Peak
Big Rocks
Bristlecone
Clover Mountains
Delamar Mountains
Far South Egans
Fortification Range
Goshute Canyon
Highland Ridge
Meadow Valley Range
Mount Grafton
Mt. Irish
Parsnip Peak
South Egan Range
South Pahroc Range
Weepah Spring
White Rock Range

PROPOSED ACTION: Ely District Public Safety and Nuisance Wild Horse Gather

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to gather, relocate, and/or remove excess wild horses causing public safety issues and impacts to private lands as well as horses moving and residing outside Herd Management Area/Herd Area (HMA/HA) boundaries. The Environmental Assessment would not be used as a tool for gathering excess wild horses for the achievement of Appropriate

Management Levels. However, some horses may be gathered and relocated and/or removed from within HMA/HA boundaries in order to resolve these management issues.

Areas targeted for these potential removals would involve but not be limited to horses along U.S. Highway 93 and 50 where horses have been in the roadway causing vehicle collisions in Lincoln and White Pine counties. Historically, there have been issues with wild horses getting on the highway between Pioche and Panaca, NV and west of Caliente, NV near Oak Springs Summit along Highway 93 as well as on Panaca Summit east of Panaca, NV on Hwy 319. During the winter months wild horses are routinely observed crossing Highway 50 near the Illipah Reservoir west of Ely, NV and north of Ely near Lages Junction, NV.

Due to the varying need for the proposed action, the primary gather technique, either helicopter-drive trapping or water/bait trapping, would be determined on a case-by-case basis following field inspections by the District Wild Horse & Burro Specialist to identify the accessibility of the animals, local terrain and vegetative cover. The use of roping from horseback could also be used when necessary. Multiple temporary trap sites (gather sites), including helicopter drive and water/bait trapping sites, as well as temporary holding sites, would be used to accomplish the goals.

No trap sites would be set up in sage grouse leks, riparian areas, cultural resource sites, or Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas. Flights may be seen from the wilderness.

Expected Decision

You can view this document by accessing the National NEPA Register web page at: <http://on.doi.gov/1x856K>. Please email your comments to BLM_NV_EYDO_NuisanceHorsesEA@blm.gov. The 30-day public comment period concludes Wednesday, July 30, 2014.

/s/ Rosemary Thomas

7/1/14

Rosemary Thomas
District Manager
Ely District

Date